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AFRICAN WILDLIFE FOUNDATION®

USAID/Uganda Tourism for Biodiversity Program

Prepared By

African Wildlife Foundation (AWF)

Submitted By

Kaddu Sebunya, Chief of Party

Ksebunya@awf.org

Submitted To

Robert Senkungu

Agreement Officer's Technical Representative (AOTR), USAID/Uganda

Table of Contents

Summary	8
A summary of the progress of activities is provided in the table below.	8
Challenges encountered	12
1 General.....	14
1.1 Establishment of field offices.....	14
1.2 Ecological Monitoring.....	14
2 Program work in Lake Mburo	14
2.1 Tourism Product Development for LMNP.....	14
2.2 Secure returns for communities from Wildlife conservation	15
2.2.1 Community tourism enterprises.....	15
2.2.2 Participatory land use planning and zoning.....	16
3 Program work in Kidepo Valley National Park.....	17
3.1 Improving tourism connectivity between MFNP and KVNP	17
3.2 Develop tourism Mini-guide for Northern Uganda route to Kidepo	17
3.3 Improving tourism in KVNP	17
3.4 Support Karenga community in land use planning to secure community wildlife area (conservancy)	18
4 Program work in Budongo Central Forest Reserve	19
4.1 Increase benefits and livelihoods for communities using ecotourism	19
4.1.1 Review of Community Forest Management groups' plans	19
4.2 Improve tourism infrastructure	20
4.3 Build NFA capacity in tourism concessions, guiding and community forest management	21
5 Program work in Kalinzu Central Forest Reserve	21
5.1 Diversify tourism products in Kalinzu Forest Reserve (KFR)	21
5.2 Explore potential for a canopy walkway	22
5.3 Support NFA to improve the ecotourism experience at Kalinzu Ecotourism site.	22
6 Program work in Murchison Falls National Park (MFNP)	22
6.1 Expand both youth ranger and UWA mentoring program	22
6.2 Tourism product development within MFNP	22
7 National Cross Cutting	22

7.1	Tourism promotion/marketing and development for protected areas to increase tourism and park revenue	22
7.2	Media engagement	23
7.2.1	Engagement	23
7.2.2	Media Capacity Improvement	23
7.2.3	Partners' engagement	23
8	Monitoring and Evaluation	24
8.1	Establishing program baseline	24
8.2	Training of program staff and partners in data collection	25
8.3	Performance review workshops	25
8.4	Identification and training of Data collectors	26
8.5	Ecological monitoring training in Kidepo	26
9	Program support to USAID/Uganda AMPROC initiative	28
10	Programing visits and support	29
10.1	Staffing	29
10.2	Visits	29
11	Planned activities for July – August 2013	29

Implementing Partners and Technical Advisory Group

The following organizations comprise the USAID/Uganda Tourism for Biodiversity implementation team:

African Wildlife Foundation (AWF): The prime leader of the implementation team. AWF is an international non-governmental organization committed to conserving Africa's natural resources while leveraging the continent's tremendous natural endowment for economic growth and improved livelihoods for its people. AWF was founded in 1961 to improve the capacity of African institutions and individuals to manage wildlife and other natural resources. AWF's program has evolved and today is based on an integrated landscape-scale approach that conserves critical habitat, enables sustainable natural resource management, and improves livelihoods. AWF's mission is to *work with the people of Africa to ensure the wildlife and wild lands of Africa endure forever*. With over 51 years of experience in conservation and enterprise development in Africa, AWF brings relevant and needed lessons learned to the USAID/Uganda Tourism for Biodiversity Program.

AWF's work in Uganda has also entailed over two decades of support to national parks including Lake Mburo, Bwindi, and Mgahinga, in partnership with USAID. Since 2002, AWF and USAID Uganda partnership explicitly yielded the conception and creation of the Visitor Center at the Mgahinga Mountain Gorilla Park and the world-class Clouds Mountain Gorilla Lodge in Nkuringo outside of Bwindi. We have improved ecological monitoring and patrolling in the gorilla parks including support to the 2003 and 2011 censuses, and we have built capacity and supported alternative livelihoods projects in Uganda.

US Forest Service: Responsible for managing over 76 million hectares of national forests and grasslands, the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) is one of the largest land management agencies in the United States. The ultimate objective in managing these lands in the context of these different benefits and uses is to ensure sustainable healthy ecosystems for future generations via multiple-use policy. The Forest Service deals with a broad array of stakeholders, and must balance the need for resource use with competing interests including extraction, biodiversity protection, and local subsistence resource use, among others.

The Jane Goodall Institute (JGI): Founded in 1977, the Jane Goodall Institute (JGI) continues Dr. Goodall's pioneering research on chimpanzee behavior – research that transformed scientific perceptions of the relationship between humans and animals. JGI's work in Uganda's focuses on four major forested areas that are home to more than 75% of the country's estimated population of 5000 chimpanzees: Budongo Forest Reserve, Bugoma Forest Reserve, Kalinzu Forest Reserve, and Kibale National Park.

Uganda Community Tourism Association (UCOTA): UCOTA exists to empower poor communities to improve their lives through community based tourism products (accommodations, guiding, crafts and cultural performances). It spearheads community-based tourism development in Uganda in an attempt to ensure that the benefits of tourism

stay as much as possible in the local community. UCOTA supports its members through capacity building and marketing of community tourism products.

NatureUganda (NU): NU's mission is "*Promoting the understanding, appreciation, and conservation of nature*". In pursuit of this mission, NU strives to create a nature-friendly public, enhance knowledge of Uganda's natural history, advocate for policies favorable to the environment, and take action to conserve priority species, sites and habitats for the benefit of people.

USAID/Uganda Tourism for Biodiversity also works with the following partner institutions:

Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA): UWA is governed by a Board of Trustees appointed by the Minister of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities to manage 10 National Parks, 12 Wildlife Reserves, and 14 Wildlife Sanctuaries. It also provides guidance for 5 Community Wildlife Areas. UWA's mission is to conserve and sustainably manage the wildlife in and outside protected areas of Uganda in partnership with neighboring communities and stakeholders for the benefit of the people of Uganda and the global community. It is committed to adhere to the international conventions and protocols for which Uganda is a party.

National Forestry Authority (NFA): NFA manages the central forest reserves on a sustainable basis to supply high quality forestry-related products to government, local communities and private sector. NFA mission is a *sufficiently forested, ecologically stable and economically prosperous Uganda*. Their policy is to broaden NFA revenue base in terms of new products, services, development assistance and other innovative sources of funding as well as better marketing strategies of the already existing products as a way forward to addressing some of the challenges of capacity and limited funding.

Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities: The mandate of the Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities (MTWA) is "To formulate and implement policies, strategies, plans and programs that promote tourism, wildlife and cultural heritage conservation for socio-economic development and transformation of the country". The **Vision** is to have "Sustainable tourism, wildlife and cultural heritage contributing to the transformation of the Ugandan society from a peasant to a modern and prosperous one" and the **Mission** is "To develop and promote tourism, wildlife and cultural heritage resources for enhancement of Uganda as a preferred tourist destination, with accelerated sector contribution to the national economy".

Ministry of Water and Environment: The ministry is responsible for setting national policies and standards, managing and regulating both environment and natural resources and supervises the autonomous agencies like National Forestry Authority (NFA), National Environmental Management Authority (NEMA), National Water and Sewage Corporation (NWSC) and the Climate Change Unit (CCU).

Acronyms

AWF	African Wildlife Foundation
AMPROC	American Procurement Company
CBO	Community Based Organization
GLS	Great Lakes Safaris
GMP	General Management Plans (UWA)
JGI	Jane Goodall Institute
PMP	Performance Management Plan
MTWA	Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities
NFA	National Forest Authority (Uganda)
NU	NatureUganda
UCOTA	Uganda Community Tourism Association
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USFS	United States Forest Service
UWA	Uganda Wildlife Authority

Target High Biodiversity Areas (National Parks and Forest Reserves)

MFNP	Murchison Falls National Park
KVNP	Kidepo Valley National Park
LMNP	Lake Mburo National Park
BFR	Budongo Forest Reserve
KFR	Kalinzu Forest Reserve

Summary

Key activities were implemented during this quarter as the program moves towards end of Year I in August 2013. Kidepo Valley Program office renovation as completed for use while the program baseline was also established and uploaded into USAID monitoring website. UWA staff were given the necessary skills and equipment to enable them collect data for ecological monitoring.

The Karenga sub county community embraced land use planning (LUP) to better manage their land and other resources especially wildlife therein. The LUP process was initiated by the AWF Conservation Science Director, Dr. Philip Muruthi in May 2013. The process in Karenga attracted the attention of the neighboring Lobalangit sub county who have also requested AWF work with them on developing a LUP together with that of Karenga. The process is expected to continue until a final plan is ready early in 2014. The plan will enable communities to set aside areas for agriculture, grazing and wildlife conservation among others.

The review of the community forest management (CFM) plans for the communities neighboring Budongo Forest reserve (BFR) also commenced. The communities are now incorporating tourism activities within their CFM plans for negotiation with NFA in the coming months.

As a follow up of the development of ranches neighboring LMNP for wildlife conservation, an ecological assessment has been undertaken. Preliminary findings show, the area is good for the purpose. A tourism assessment will now be undertaken to prescribe specific tourism activities that should be developed to support the "conservancies". At the same time identified trails in LMNP have now been technically designed awaiting opening.

On program monitoring and evaluation, activities implemented included; establishment of a baseline upon which progress and impact would be measured, training of program staff and partners in the use of the program data collection tools, holding performance review workshops to provide an avenue for program officers and partners to learn from implementation, providing ecological monitoring training support to UWA to strengthen their ecological monitoring efforts, not only to facilitate management decision making, but also to provide data to aid the USAID/Uganda Tourism for Biodiversity program to measure its impact.

A summary of the progress of activities is provided in the table below

Activity	Progress	Remarks
General		
Establishment of field offices	Completed renovation of Kidepo field office	Office in use
Ecological Monitoring	24 UWA staff trained and systematic data collection on wildlife established in KVNP	Data collection on going

Activity	Progress	Remarks
Program work in Lake Mburo		
Tourism Product Development for LMNP	Designs for 4 trails totaling 16 km developed. Project brief prepared for approval	Designing done by Rwenzori Mountains NP staff who benefitted from capacity building during USAID STAR time. Opening of trails to start in next quarter
Secure returns for communities from Wildlife conservation	18 community members (seven of these female) trained in module 4 (community interpretive guiding) of the UCOTA enterprise development. Later they undertook a three day study tour to learn from communities neighboring Queen Elizabeth, Kibale and Rwenzori Mountains NPs	Module 5 to be handled in July before the communities graduate. They however are already implementing activities that have been developed during the earlier parts of the training.
	Over 150 individual ranchers met in various meetings to discuss the potential of wildlife management on their land in at least 5 different meetings. Many are supportive. An ecological assessment of the area also undertaken with preliminary reports showing good potential.	Tourism assessment planned for next quarter followed by land use plan for area
Program work in Kidepo Valley National Park		
Improving tourism connectivity between MFNP and KVNP	No progress as we wait Mission approval of consultant after earlier disapproval by USAID Mission and subsequent re-advertisement of the consultancy	This delay has overall impact on program deliverables not only in Kidepo esp. the indicators for revenue, community and landowners' participation, number of tourism arrivals, etc.
Develop tourism Mini-guide for Northern Uganda route to Kidepo	No progress as we await Mission approval of consultant after earlier disapproval by USAID Mission and subsequent re-advertisement of the consultancy	The delay has impact on programs ability to improve revenue for Kidepo and the community benefits from tourism
Improving tourism in KVNP	Plan for opening three trails totaling 15 km finalized with community group to undertake works. Opening to start in July.	USFS team will support this activity in development and firming protected areas trail development manual.

Activity	Progress	Remarks
Support Karenga community in land use planning to secure community wildlife area (conservancy)	Community briefed on what land use planning is in meeting with over 150 members and in agreement. 10 member committee selected by the community. Reconnaissance of planning area undertaken, key zoning areas agreed on; Neighboring Lobalangit sub county requested to be included in planning.	Lobalangit planning process to commence in July and then combine with Karenga when final zoning is done
Renovation of Kidepo Valley house for Program Office	Completed	Office in use
Program work in Budongo Central Forest Reserve		
Increase benefits and livelihoods for communities using ecotourism	Community Forest Management plans for 5 communities have been reviewed ready for negotiation with NFA involving 477 participants	Negotiations planned for next quarter
Improve tourism infrastructure	A 57 km biking trail has been opened and geo-referenced.	Construction/improvement of the trails to be done in next quarter
Build NFA capacity in tourism concessions, guiding and community forest management	Mapping of ecological features and baselines for measuring tourism impact commenced	To be completed at completion of ongoing Environmental and Social Impact assessment
Program work in Kalinzu Central Forest Reserve		
Diversify tourism products in Kalinzu Forest Reserve	A detailed tourism feasibility assessment has been concluded. Analysis on going	Analysis on going before discussion with stakeholders on products and facilities to be developed
Explore potential for canopy walk	Preliminary assessment for development of canopy walks was conducted by JGI in partnership with Art & Nature Design Master's Program students from the De Groene Campus, Netherlands.	Unfortunately report was prepared in Dutch and therefore has required translation into English, which is on going
Support NFA to improve the ecotourism experience at Kalinzu Ecotourism site	A needs assessment was carried out by the Jane Goodall Institute on tour guides' perception of their role, responsibilities and training needs.	Based on this assessment a training program is being developed and will be undertaken in the next quarter
Program work in Murchison Falls National Park		
Expand both youth ranger and UWA mentoring program	Preparation of training of 100 scouts in two batches finalized. Training to be undertaken in July. Essential equipment and materials to support work and problem animal control to be provided	Scouts already doing a tremendous job address problem animal issue in Nwoya and Kiryandongo districts neighboring MFNP

Activity	Progress	Remarks
Tourism product development within MFNP	Has been delayed due to late arrival of USFS specialists and delayed consultancy approval by USAID Mission	Will be covered in the next quarter
National Cross Cutting		
Tourism promotion/ marketing and development for protected areas to increase tourism and park revenue	Awaiting approval of the selected consultant by the Mission after initial USAID disapproval of the finalists, and the request to re-advertise	Achievement of deliverables for this activity may be difficult due to the delayed USAID approval of consultants. Some of the work will definitely flow into Year II
Media engagement		
Media engagement	Media continuously engaged throughout the period. FAM trip being organized for selected media houses next quarter. Internal (within AWF) summary information provided regularly to inform on Uganda program	Increased number of articles about target sites resulting into more visits and revenue. We are working with UWA on a Local Media FAM Trip to Kidepo in August 2013 as part of Kidepo @50 celebrations
Media Capacity Improvement	Support provided in upgrading the Uganda Tourism Press Association	Training of tourism journalists planned next quarter
Partners' engagement	Technical Advisory Committee (TAG) first meeting held in May. Partners regularly engaged from time to time	Next TAG meeting planned for August
Monitoring and Evaluation		
Establishing program baseline	Baseline consultancy completed. Baseline data collected. Indicators for the program determined and entered into the USAID Uganda performance monitoring system	Activity completed
Training of program staff and partners in data collection	Training of Program and Implementing partner staff as well as UWA in data collection for monitoring undertaken	Continuous training will continue
Performance review	Undertaken during the quarterly program staff review as well as through the Technical advisory group meeting	Quarterly reviews to continue
Identification and training of Data collectors	Data collectors trained during the baseline survey retained to continue supporting the periodic data collection for community related data	Monitoring performance will continue
Ecological monitoring training in Kidepo	24 staff of UWA trained in systematic wildlife monitoring and monitoring transects established in Kidepo for the purpose	Monitoring to continue on a regular basis
Program support to USAID/Uganda AMPROC initiative		

Comment [u1]: All the remarks under here are not remarks. Please see my comment on Media engagement above...

Activity	Progress	Remarks
Start AMPROC activities	Sites for a cultural market and a 10 cottage ecolodge and camp cleared and materials for construction procured. Architectural designs for both structures completed and submitted to local authorities for approval.	Review of work plan on going in the next quarter resulting into re focusing of the activities to clearly deliverable targets, and budgets.

Challenges encountered

Delay in approvals for various consultancies

Consultancies advertised in the last quarter did not get approval from the USAID Mission as envisaged and a re-advertisement had to be undertaken this quarter. The Mission recommended the use of individual consultants and the engagement of AWF and UWA staff as much as possible as better ways to build local capacity while implementing program activities.

To ensure compliance with the Mission recommendations, AWF reviewed the terms of reference and the consultancies were re-advertisement. Bids were received and evaluation undertaken. The results have been submitted to the Mission and the Program awaits approval expected in early July before the activities can be implemented.

The re-advertisement for the consultancies has greatly delayed several activities related to tourism marketing and is likely to have impact on the achievements of the deliverables within the time frame originally planned.

AWF has asked for a technical meeting with the Mission to discuss implications on program implementation caused by these delays and seeking to understand the approval process.

Difficulty in getting NatureUganda on board

Despite several calls, emails and meetings with NatureUganda, it have been impossible to get them participate in activities of the Program as earlier envisaged. Several promises have been made and broken over the last six months. AWF is now looking at other means of having the work previously planned to be undertaken by NatureUganda to be taken up by other institutions and/or individuals with the capacity to implement.

Management of the AMPROC subcontract

The American Procurement Company (AMPROC) which received approval of a grant from USAID has not been as effective in implementation as anticipated. We have held discussions with them to provide technical support but this has not yielded as much progress as anticipated. Part of the challenge was due to absence of the anticipated staffing of qualified AMPROC personnel to oversee the field activities is yet to materialize. We have now agreed

with them in the coming quarter to review their remaining work plan; select achievable deliverables in the time frame remaining (up to end of February 2014); and recruit qualified personnel with immediate effect.

Also AWF is seeking modification of the program contract to formalize the transfer of responsibilities of AMPROC grant under the current AWF/USAID contract.

Delays in getting the signage plan from UWA

Despite UWA having a signage plan for all its parks, it required several meetings before the USAID/Uganda Tourism for Biodiversity Program could obtain the plans for the target sites. The matter was made worse because UWA had originally advertised the signage works only to release the costs were too high when they went through the evaluation process. We have now requested for quotations from sign fabrication companies as we await UWA's guidance on how to proceed.

Activity Report

1 General

1.1 Establishment of field offices

As reported in the last quarter, the renovation of the KVNP Program office began in earnest in April 2013. However due to the heavy rains in the park that month, there were various delays especially in obtaining sand due to impassible roads and flooded swamps. The work was however completed during the quarter and the offices are now in use. Now with all staff for Kidepo recruited and on the ground and all equipment delivered, timely implementation and reporting is expected.



Kidepo Valley National Park office nearing completion in early June 2013

1.2 Ecological Monitoring

A training of 24 UWA staff was undertaken at Apoka in Kidepo Valley in systematic monitoring of wildlife within the parks. Staff from UWA headquarters, Lake Mburo and Murchison Falls National Parks also participated in the training. A systematic monitoring framework was developed for period and regular animal counts in Kidepo Valley National Park. This the first of its kind, in use in UWA and should give a good indication (with time) of the abundance of wildlife in the park and during which period and in which areas they are easily sighted leading to improved interpretation for and viewing by visitors to the park. It will also compliment the opportunistic monitoring being undertaken through the Ranger Based Data Collection (RBDC).

2 Program work in Lake Mburo

2.1 Tourism Product Development for LMNP

Detailed trail designs were prepared for 4 trails to be developed within LMNP, including GPS measurement of the length of each trail. They include the Lake side trail (4 km); the Rubanga forest trail (4 km with an option of a shorter version of 3 km); the Interpretation center trail

(2.6 km); and the Kigarama trail (4 km reduced from 6 km earlier planned to make shorter and easier to use). A Project brief has been prepared for approval.

The trail design was supported by UWA staff of Rwenzori Mountain National Park who had benefitted from previous training by USFS during the USAID STAR program implemented a few years ago.

2.2 Secure returns for communities from Wildlife conservation

2.2.1 Community tourism enterprises

UCOTA conducted a five-day training workshop at the Lake Mburo Community Education Centre (LMCEC). Seven women and eleven men from 9 groups were trained in community interpretative guiding. Two UWA staff were also in attendance. According to products on the ground, each group developed customized attraction/ product inventory and product delivery guidelines during the training workshop.

Later the group undertook a three-day field tour (June 6 to 8, 2013) to the western region around Queen Elizabeth, Rwenzori Mountains and Kibale National Parks to learn from other community groups that have experience in guiding and interpretation. The participants learnt and shared experience from the successful Pearls of Uganda community tourism enterprises. During the visit, some of the participants had an opportunity to put in practice some of the skills they had recently acquired like guiding and use of record books. The tour was also meant to catalyze more creative thinking among participants especially in areas of product development and community benefit.



Practical training session at Lake Mburo Education Centre (left) while participants experiencing Kikorongo handcraft demonstration tour (right)

The table below indicates tourism products of nine Community tourism enterprises (CTEs) whose members participated in both guiding training and study tour.

Group	Location	Trained Staff		Enterprise	Product devt. status
		F	M		
Ankole Culture Community Tourism Enterprise	Located outside the park near the Kanyaryeru sub-county headquarters, Kanyaryeru village	1	0	Traditional milk processing experience (Milk Churning)	Very good
Rubare Fishing Community Tourism Enterprise	Inside the park and Rubare fish landing site, Rubare fishing village	0	1	Traditional Fishing experience (done off-shore)	Very good
Rwabarata Drama Actors	Located in Sanga-county along the way to Sanga gate in Rwabarata trading center/ village	1	1	Ankole traditional dances	Very good
Rwamuhuku Crafts Group	Located in Sanga-county along the way to Sanga gate in Rwamuhuku trading center/ village	2	0	Demonstration and participation in Traditional handcraft making experience	Good
Ssana Community Accommodation	Near to the Sanga gate	1	0	Modest Accommodation and meals	Fair
Rwenjeru Campsite	Rwenjeru village	0	3	Campsite, Cattle watering experience, Restaurant, Village walk	Very good (Campsite is Good)
Igongo Cultural Institute	Igongo Museum	1	4	The cultural village, Ankole traditional cooking tour	Good
Masha Community Wildlife Forum	Rwetango in Masha sub-county, Isingiro district	1	1	Bee keeping, Drama performances, Village tour	Good
Nshara Community Rest Camp and Crafts Centre	Nshara gate, Northern part of LMNP	0	1	Rest camp and crafts	Very good
Total		7	11		

2.2.2 Participatory land use planning and zoning

Several meetings were organized with individual land owners to discuss issues of conservancy development. The AWF Vice President Conservation Strategy held a one day awareness raising meeting with 21 ranch owners for ranches neighboring Lake Mburo National Park (Ranches 45 – 50) at Mburo Safari Lodge and another with 15 ranchers in Kampala. She also held discussions with UWA on how UWA can support conservancy developed in Uganda. It was agreed that AWF develops a concept paper on community wildlife management (conservancy) that UWA can use in its planning and lobbying government for support towards this new land use. The paper has been developed and shared with UWA.

Later three community sensitization meetings were held for the three villages of Kashenshero, Rukukuuru and Nyanga covering ranches 45 to 51 with an attendance of 130 participants (20 Female : 100 Male). The meetings were also attended by local government representatives and park management.

Before the development of a management plan for the area, it has been agreed that there is need for an ecological assessment of the area be undertaken to enable a better understanding of the ecological potential for conservation as well as a tourism assessment to identify key products that can be developed for the area. Fiachra Kearney, the AWF Program Manager, Conservation Planning spent a week in the Lake Mburo area in June 2013 undertaking the assessment and a report is expected before mid-July 2013. Preliminary findings show great potential for the area especially ranches 45 to 51 to be developed for wildlife management in combination with cattle ranching. The tourism assessment is planned for the next quarter.



Ranchers meeting in Kampala (left) and at Rukukuuru, near LMNP (right)

3 Program work in Kidepo Valley National Park

3.1 Improving tourism connectivity between MFNP and KVNP

This activity was to be undertaken with the help of a consultant. Together with other consultancies, this was advertised in the last quarter but did not get approval from the USAID Mission as envisaged and a re-advertisement had to be undertaken this quarter. The Mission recommended the use of individual consultants and the engagement of AWF and UWA staff as much as possible as better ways to build local capacity while implementing program activities.

To ensure compliance with the Mission recommendations, the terms of reference were reviewed and the consultancies re-advertisement. Bids were received and evaluation undertaken. The results have been submitted to the Mission and the Program awaits approval expected in early July before the activities can be implemented.

3.2 Develop tourism Mini-guide for Northern Uganda route to Kidepo

As in the last activity, a consultant was to support the implementation of this activity. After non-approval of the previously selected consultant, the work was re-advertised and the Program now awaits USAID approval of the selected consultant.

3.3 Improving tourism in KVNP

A plan and budget to open the identified trails for three of the identified trails was developed. Community members to support the opening of the trails were identified and work

negotiated with them. Funds released for the opening of the trails starting July. The trails to be opened are: Katurum trail (7 km), Kaleroki trail (3 km) and Logirangole trail (5 km).

3.4 Support Karenga community in land use planning to secure community wildlife area (conservancy)

A number of meetings have been held with the Karenga Sub county community regarding the preparation of the land use plan. First, the communities were briefed on the need for the land use plan and they selected a team to work with USAID/Uganda Tourism for Biodiversity Program to develop the plan. A second meeting was then organized with the team of selected community members (10 members of whom 4 are women) and their leaders. They were introduced to the concept of land use planning in more detail before a Core Planning Team was selected bringing on board other members such as NFA, district and investor representatives. The team also selected a Chairman (Chairman LC III Karenga) and a facilitator (AWF) and agreed on a schedule for the planning process.

The team then went back to the community to brief them on the selection of a Core Planning Team (CPT), share the schedule for the planning process and gain further buy-in. A reconnaissance of the planning area (Karenga sub-county) by the CPT was undertaken with the team identifying challenges and opportunities within the area and allowing the members of the planning team who do not reside in the area appreciate the area before discussing management issues for the area. Eight tentative zones were also agreed on i.e. Improved agriculture; Improved livestock production; Improved settlements and associated social services such as health clinics, schools, roads, markets among others; Forestry under the sub county; Wildlife conservation; Tourism areas especially focusing on infrastructure such as lodges and game viewing tracks among others; Industrial development focusing on areas for construction of value addition facilities; and Mining areas (sand, stones, brick making).

The goal of the land use plan is *“To enable the people of Karenga Sub-county to undertake sustainable development, improve social services and livelihoods by conserving nature resources of the area”* while the tagline is *“Correct land use for sustainable development”*.



Community meeting at the Karenga sub county headquarters (left) and some of the members of the Core planning team identifying and mapping current activities being undertaken in Karenga



The Core Planning team discusses with some of the community members in their gardens during the reconnaissance exercise

The CPT also agreed that Lobalangit subcounty, recently carved out of Karenga sub county be included in the land use planning as their activities impact Karenga and vice versa and the leadership of Lobalangit had requested the leadership of Karenga to include them in the land use plan process.

After bringing Lobalangit Sub County to the same level as Karenga Sub County (scheduled for July) a final zoning will be undertaken in August while management programs will be discussed and agreed on in September 2013.

4 Program work in Budongo Central Forest Reserve

4.1 Increase benefits and livelihoods for communities using ecotourism

4.1.1 Review of Community Forest Management groups' plans

This activity is meant to support NFA and communities review the 10-year Community Forest Management (CFM) plans developed by communities around Budongo Forest reserve with a view of incorporating tourism activities. It is spearheaded by the Jane Goodall Institute with support from UCOTA.



Kapeka Community Development Association (left), Budongo Good Neighbourhood Community Association (centre) and Karujubu Forest Adjacent Community Association (right) CFM plan review meetings

Consultative meetings and participatory appraisal of CFM groups commenced in April and has resulted in drafting of addenda to be negotiated with NFA and appended to existing CFM

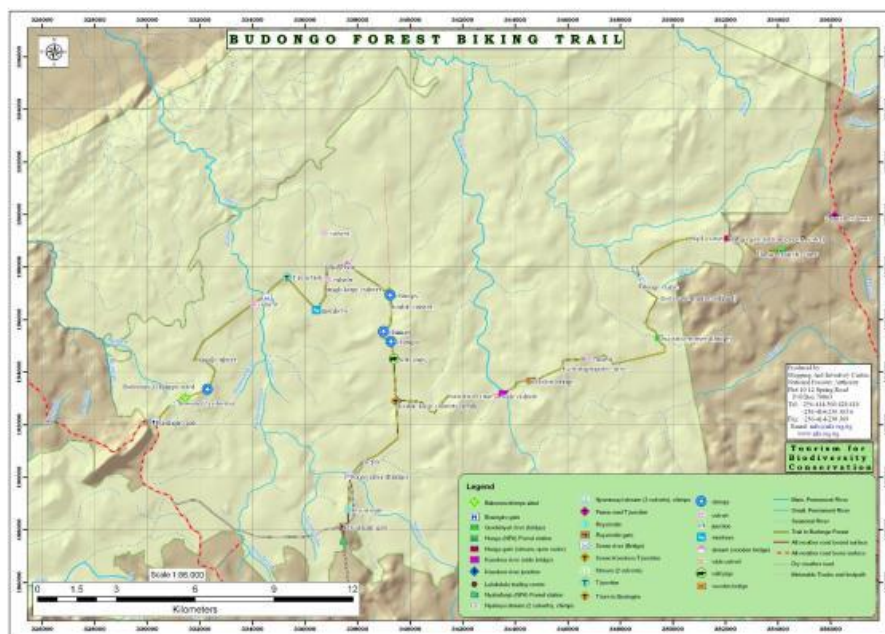
agreements. CFM group plans reviewed include: Karujubu Forest Adjacent Community Association (KAFACA), North Budongo Forest Conservation Association (NOBUFOCA), Kapeeka Community Development Association (KICODA), Budongo Good Neighbourhood Community Association (BUNCA), and Nyakase Community Development Association (NECODA). A total of 477 participants attended (26.7% female participation). The review process identified gaps in CFM implementation based on the current plans/agreements; identified the current problems faced by all the five (5) CFM groups; identified the tourism potential for the groups; drafted addenda to be added to current plans/agreements. The next quarter will focus on negotiations with NFA to have the addenda approved and signed off for implementation.

4.2 Improve tourism infrastructure

The entire length of the biking trail has been opened and geo referenced (see map below). The geo referencing shows that the total trail length is 57 Km. An EIA consulting firm was contracted to undertake work on the trail, the EIA team conducted a survey and produced a scoping report. The report was submitted to NEMA for preliminary review and feedback at which NEMA requested for technical specifications of the trail. JGI has thus contracted and deployed a survey firm to conduct a survey and draft a technical design comprising topographic survey, geotechnical specifications and geometric design. The report will be produced in July 2013 and resubmitted for review and approval by NEMA before a trail construction firm is contracted to start trail development.

It should be noted that there was an initial delay in trail opening, geo referencing and Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) work due to infestation of the area with tsetse flies which eventually cleared in May. It has now been established that tsetse infestation in this area is an annual occurrence for two months (March and April, with the coming of the rains) every year and this will be taken into account in planning activities on the trail. Also the anticipated USFS technical team will arrive in country this coming quarter to support JGI and NFA trail designing capacity development program.

On the other hand the plan to extend the existing chimpanzee trail network within Kaniyo Pabidi to increase sighting success rate and improve monitoring has also commenced. GIS mapping of the trail system showing extended home range of chimpanzees is now complete. A team comprising of JGI, NFA and Great Lakes Safaris staff has been recruited to start trail opening once the plan is complete. Activity continues to end of quarter 4 year 1.



4.3 Build NFA capacity in tourism concessions, guiding and community forest management

Mapping of ecological features and baselines for measuring tourism impact commenced but will be complimented by the ESIA report which is due July 2013. After the mapping is complete, an assessment of the training needs will be done and training conducted.

5 Program work in Kalinzu Central Forest Reserve

5.1 Diversify tourism products in Kalinzu Forest Reserve (KFR)

A detailed tourism feasibility assessment covering Kalinzu and Kasyoha-Kitomi forests and surrounding communities has been concluded. Data is currently being analyzed and the results of this survey will be presented at a stakeholder's consultative meeting to be held at the end of July 2013.



"Transparent lake" and "Falls" in Kalinzu FR identified by the assessment team on the right

5.2 Explore potential for a canopy walkway

Preliminary assessment for development of canopy walks in Kalinzu CFR was conducted by JGI in partnership with Art & Nature Design Master's program students from the De Groene Campus, Netherlands. This is an annual project which is conducted in partnership between JGI-Uganda and De Groene Campus. A report was produced in May 2013 but in Dutch and is currently being translated to English. This report will provide a basis for tailoring the assessment and feasibility study of canopy walkway in the forest.

5.3 Support NFA to improve the ecotourism experience at Kalinzu Ecotourism site.

A needs assessment was carried out by the Jane Goodall Institute to investigate Kalinzu Central Forest Reserve (CFR) tour guides' perception of their role, responsibilities and training needs. Based on this assessment a training program is being developed and will commence in July 2013. The training will include provision of field gear to support the work of the guides.

6 Program work in Murchison Falls National Park (MFNP)

6.1 Expand both youth ranger and UWA mentoring program

Discussions were held with UWA/MFNP regarding training of youth ranger scouts to support dealing with problem animal challenges in Nwoya and Kiryandongo districts. A two-day training for 100 scouts (in two groups of fifty) was agreed on and field gear determined. A budget and training program have been developed. Training and commissioning will be undertaken in July and August 2013.

6.2 Tourism product development within MFNP

This activity was postponed to the next quarter awaiting for the USFS specialists who are expected in July as well as the consultant on tourism marketing who is expected to be on board soon after USAID approval processing. Their work will focus on supporting UWA develop the Top of Falls infrastructure and related marketing materials. The USFS specialists and the tourism marketing consultancy are expected in July 2013 when work will commence.

7 National Cross Cutting

7.1 Tourism promotion/marketing and development for protected areas to increase tourism and park revenue

At the end of the last quarter, AWF was awaiting approval of the selected consultant by the Mission. However the Mission advised that this consultancy is better undertaken by individual consultants rather than one firm. This would especially be important for building the capacity of the institutions to undertake the same activities when the Tourism for Biodiversity Program ends. To this end therefore AWF revised the terms of reference and re-advertised the consultancies. Several bids were received and have been evaluated. A report, with best

evaluated consultants for the various activities has been submitted to the USAID Mission and awaits approval.

It should be noted that the delayed approval of this consultancy has greatly delayed the development of the marketing materials and will have significant impact on the achievements of the deliverables within the time frame originally anticipated.

7.2 Media engagement

7.2.1 Engagement

The USAID/Uganda Tourism for Biodiversity Program has continued to engage the media by providing the information regarding tourism and biodiversity conservation throughout this quarter. In addition, plans for a FAM trip for selected media houses are being made for a visit to some of the project sites scheduled for early August. This will especially be in line with a special marketing of Kidepo Valley as it celebrates 50 years as a National Park dubbed “Kidepo at 50”.

7.2.2 Media Capacity Improvement

The USAID/Uganda Tourism for Biodiversity Program has provided support to the Uganda Tourism Press Association towards improvement of their website. A consultant has now made improvements on the website and handed it over to the association (see screen print of site as of July 14).



7.2.3 Partners' engagement

USAID/Uganda Tourism for Biodiversity Program hosted the first Technical Advisory Group (TAG) meeting in May 2013. The Technical Advisory Group (TAG) is a team representing a cross-section of the sustainable tourism stakeholders which will play a lead role in advising

and helping to guide the implementation of Program. The group will support the program team to improve implementation strategies and engage national, regional, and local stakeholders. The TAG will also help to develop an action agenda that defines specific initiatives and roles in support of Uganda's tourism and conservation strategies. The TAG's effort will be important in building broad support for USAID/Uganda Tourism for Biodiversity activities among stakeholders.

During the meeting, the TAG members were taken through USAID/Uganda Tourism for Biodiversity Program by the Chief of Party to enable them appreciate what the program was doing and the planned activities. The meeting was attended by representatives from Uganda Wildlife Authority (Executive Director), USAID Mission (Economic Growth), Uganda Community Tourism Association (Executive Director), National Forestry Authority (Director of Finance), The Jane Goodall Institute (Executive Director and Programs Director), Uganda Tourism Press Association (President) and USAID/Uganda Tourism for Biodiversity Program technical team. Members agreed that the TAG membership should be expanded to include other conservation players (NGOs). TAG meetings will be held on a quarterly basis.



Stakeholders at USAID/Uganda Tourism for Biodiversity Program TAG meeting at Fairway Hotel Kampala - May 16, 2013. Right is the Chief of Party with Uganda Wildlife Authority Executive Director at the meeting

8 Monitoring and Evaluation

8.1 Establishing program baseline

The USAID/Uganda Tourism for Biodiversity program commissioned a consultancy to establish a baseline for a number of indicators and parameters upon which progress and performance will be measured. This baseline data comprises initial information on program indicators outlined in the program performance management plan and has been the basis for setting some of the program targets for measuring the performance of the USAID/Uganda Tourism for Biodiversity Program.

The study used a mix of quantitative and qualitative methods to collect primary information from the five program sites (Kalinzu and Budongo forest reserves and Kidepo Valley, Murchison Falls and Lake Mburo national parks) especially on household income and other dynamics, and triangulated this data with data from community focus group discussions to ensure validity, reliability and integrity of the study results. Secondary data on the other hand, was obtained from sources such as Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife & Heritage (MTWH),

Uganda Wildlife Authority, National Forestry Authority, Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS) and other reliable data sources.

The results from the baseline study have been used in developing targets and indicators for the various activities that the Program is undertaking and input into the Program's Performance Management Plan (PMP). The indicators have been uploaded on the USAID Uganda Performance Reporting System.

8.2 Training of program staff and partners in data collection

A total of 17 data collection tools for data collection on program activities were designed during the first quarter of program implementation. These include among others; tools for capturing training and direct participation, leverage, partnerships, educational and promotional materials, signs and interpretative material installed as well as enterprise revenue.



These tools needed to be socialized and users trained on how to apply them to capture valid and accurate data to enable the Program measure its progress and performance. To this end, a data collection training session was conducted for 25 program staff and partners who are charged with the responsibility of collecting performance data. This training has been complemented with a series of follow ups, through one-on-one meeting or phone conversations with the data collectors to ensure that the data collection process runs smoothly. Additional trainings will be offered as and when need arises. The picture below shows some of the Program staff in training.

8.3 Performance review workshops

One of the strategies for the program to ensure that it; 1) stays on track, 2) picks lessons from implementation, 3) identifies what works and what doesn't; is to hold performance review workshops. These are scheduled to take place on a quarterly basis, and are platforms where program technical officers from each field site meet, both internally within the program or externally with a technical advisory group, and discuss performance during each quarter of implementation, share lessons learned, challenges met, get feedback on implementation and come up with action points for the next quarter.



During this quarter of implementation, two of such workshops were held, at the program office in Kampala with the technical team as well as at the Kampala fairway hotel with the technical advisory group. During these meetings, program team members presented

their sites activities, highlighting progress made or lack thereof and the challenges faced that accounted for the lack of progress. Many of them sited delays in obtaining approvals from USAID for most of the works to be contracted out as the main cause of the major delays. An action point going forward was for the program team members to mitigate these delays by fast tracking implementation and getting all the necessary preliminary works in order while awaiting approvals.

8.4 Identification and training of Data collectors

During the quarter under review, the Program identified a number of potential community members to engage in data collection as planned in the program monitoring and evaluation work plan. These were identified with help from the local leaders and other program partners on the basis of language, education and cultural awareness. The rationale behind this



approach is to promote ownership and participation of communities in program implementation as a bid to push conservation forward, but also, their cognizance of the cultural norms and the local languages of the program target sites, increases the likelihood of obtaining data needed from the community members for program reporting and decision making.

During this quarter, these individuals have been trained in interview and use of direct observation to obtain data and have since been engaged to collect baseline information for the program. This group of data collectors will later also be equipped with skills in collecting day to day monitoring data, most especially qualitative data on community perceptions and attitudes towards conservation and a training manual made available to them for review and reference during the data collection exercises.

8.5 Ecological monitoring training in Kidepo

Ecological monitoring is one of the key elements of protected area management and both the Uganda Wildlife Authority and the African Wildlife Foundation are cognizant of this fact. This is because it not only provides vital information needed for planning and decision-making, but also facilitates evaluation of biodiversity conservation and sustainable management of wildlife resources.

The Uganda Wildlife Authority, the sole custodian of Uganda's Wildlife, has protocols and systems in place, particularly through their Ecological Monitoring and Research Unit, for monitoring biodiversity, both in and outside of protected areas, yet some key information is outdated or not available in some cases. Most of the monitoring done by the organization is related to large mammal counts (with little information on other mammals), and vegetation monitoring. Climate change is introducing further complications into biodiversity

management, and the Uganda Wildlife Authority systems are in need of review on how well they are integrating climate change information.

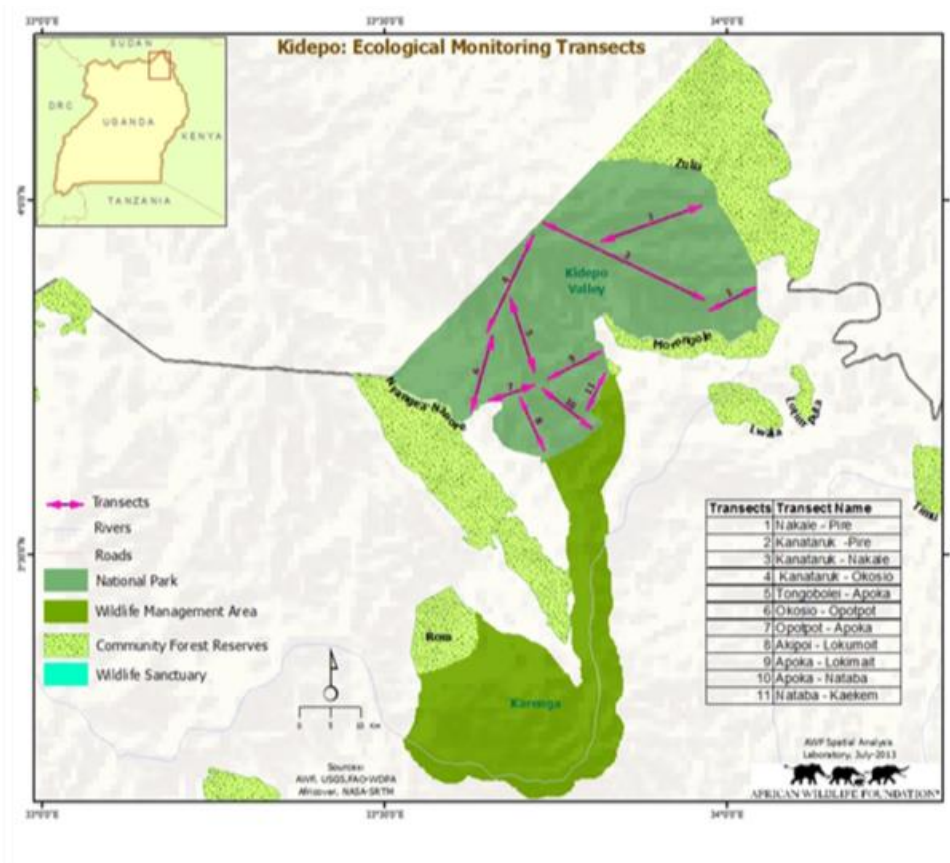
Conversely also, the proposed changes in tourism levels and biodiversity status which are anticipated through the implementation of the USAID/Uganda Tourism for Biodiversity program require monitoring to assess potential impacts and adapt the program or future programs as needed. Considering that such biodiversity changes take a relatively longer time to emerge, and are sometimes even visible long after the end of most programs, it was imperative for the program to anchor its monitoring initiatives to those of the Uganda Wildlife Authority in order to lay a foundation for capture of program impact even after closure.

A need for technical support to the Uganda Wildlife Authority in the area of ecological monitoring was therefore evident, and based on the information gathered by the program from the various officials of the Uganda Wildlife Authority involved in ecological monitoring within the institution, it was agreed that one of the areas of technical support from the program should be geared towards systematizing UWA's ranger based data collection which is basically opportunistic, depending on law enforcement ranger patrols. The rationale is to facilitate detection of changes in species and habitats over time. The use of transects or road counts was therefore selected as the appropriate method of data collection that would ensure systematic capture of data for this purpose.

It was against this background that a training in Kidepo Valley National Park was organized, to orient the Uganda Wildlife Authority staff in the monitoring and research unit, in the use of transects to capture monitoring data. A refresher course was also given in the use of GPSes to ensure that data capture during the transect walks is accurate. Participants (who included 24 ranger from Kidepo Valley National Park and 2 Wardens from Lake Mburo and Murchison Falls, as well as 4 staff of the African Wildlife Foundation), were also introduced to OziExplorer, a software they will be using to download and analyze data collected.

Selection of the transects for Kidepo Valley national Park was also done during this training, through a participatory process mainly anchored around the staff of the park who are more knowledgeable about the park and the best sites for data capture. The criterion for selection of these transects included; accessibility of the location, presence of wildlife, geographical considerations and animal movement patterns to mention but these. Below is a map of Kidepo Valley National Park showing the selected transects for ecological monitoring.

Selected Transects in Kidepo Valley National Park



9 Program support to USAID/Uganda AMPROC initiative

An initial USD 435,000 was disbursed to AMPROC to enable them implement agreed activities. The activities are to develop a wildlife area (conservancy) at Kibega near Lake Mburo National Park. The funds were planned to support the construction of an ecolodge, and develop the approximately 1 sq. mile land into a tourist destination including support to the neighboring communities in improving some of their products such as ghee for the local and international market.

During the quarter, the sites for a cultural market and a 10 cottage ecolodge and camp were cleared and materials for construction procured. Architectural designs have also been developed by Fusione Architects and submitted to the local authorities for approval. Contractors to undertake the construction work, ENSCON Ltd., have also been selected.

10 Programing visits and support

10.1 Staffing

Three new staff were appointed and reported to various positions during the quarter, bringing the staffing levels to its full compliment. The three are Marion Nankya Wasajja (Tourism Marketing Officer), Methodius Mukhwana (Community Tourism Development Officer) and Harold Kiryowa Lubanga (Community Liaison Officer – Kidepo).

10.2 Visits

Hosted a **USAID Mission team in Lake Mburo** who visited to acquaint themselves with the progress of work undertaken by the USAID/Uganda Tourism for Biodiversity program. They visited the area planned for conservancy in Rurambira parish, the AMPROC site at Kibega and held a meeting with park management.

Comment [u2]: Can we put a photo here of those folks



USAID team meeting being briefed by the AWF team in LMNP (left) and at the AMPROC site (right)

The AWF CEO and President of AWF, Dr. Patrick Bergin paid a one day support and fund raising visit to Uganda and met Program staff during the quarter. The AWF Vice President for Conservation Strategy, Director Information Technology, Senior Director Conservation Science, the Program Manager Conservation Planning and the Senior GIS Officer all based in Nairobi visited to Program to provide various technical support during the quarter.

11 Planned activities for July – August 2013

Activity	Remarks
General	
Prepare Program work plan and Budget for Year II	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consult stakeholders on priorities and approval• Develop work plan• Submit to USAID for approval
Program work in Lake Mburo	
Tourism Product Development for LMNP	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Open trails as designed

Activity	Remarks
Secure returns for communities from Wildlife conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give final training (Module 5) to community tourism enterprise (CTE) trainees (UCOTA) • Provide support to CTE to ensure sustainability • Undertaken tourism assessment for the ranches around Lake Mburo NP • Initiate Land use planning process
Program work in Kidepo Valley National Park	
Improving tourism connectivity between MFNP and KVNP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start consultancy to improve connectivity between MFNP and KVNP (data collection and drafting of report)
Develop tourism Mini-guide for Northern Uganda route to Kidepo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start consultancy for Mini-guide for Northern Uganda route to Kidepo (data collection, drafting of mini-guide)
Improving tourism in KVNP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open selected trails (15 km) with community support
Support Karenga community in land use planning to secure community wildlife area (conservancy)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initiation and reconnaissance for Lobalangit sub county land use plan • Zoning for Karenga and Lobalangit sub counties
Program work in Budongo Central Forest Reserve (JGI with support from UCOTA)	
Increase benefits and livelihoods for communities using ecotourism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initiate negotiations with NFA on Community Forest Management Plans for the five community groups
Improve tourism infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction/improvement of the biking trail • Expand/open additional trails for chimp tracking around Kaniyo Pabidi
Build NFA capacity in tourism concessions, guiding and community forest management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Train selected community members and NFA in guiding and community forest management
Program work in Kalinzu Central Forest Reserve (JGI with support from UCOTA)	
Diversify tourism products in Kalinzu Forest Reserve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss and agree with stakeholders on products and facilities that need to be developed in KFR
Explore potential for canopy walk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Based on report on potential for canopy walk, develop ToRs and advert for feasibility study on potential for
Support NFA to improve the ecotourism experience at Kalinzu Ecotourism site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Based on this assessment a training program is being developed and will be undertaken in the next quarter
Program work in Murchison Falls National Park	
Expand both youth ranger and UWA mentoring program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Train 100 scouts to monitor and address problem animal issues • Equip ranger scouts with basic equipment to support monitoring and preventing crop raids • Implement problem animal measures
Tourism product development within MFNP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare improvement plan for Top of Falls • Initiate improvement activities for Top of Falls trails
National Cross Cutting	

Activity	Remarks
Tourism promotion/ marketing and development for protected areas to increase tourism and park revenue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conclude contract on signage and start placement of signage in one of the parks (costs higher than anticipated and therefore can only work in one park) • Produce at least 4000 assorted marketing materials for the five program sites • Support NFA (consultancy) in developing an ecotourism and business plan
Hold annual women in conservation conference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognize women in conservation to encourage youth, particularly women to consider careers in conservation
Media engagement	
Media engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue media engagement • Organize one Familiarization trip for journalists and tour operators to program focal sites
Media Capacity Improvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Train tourism journalists in improved reported
Partners' engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call and hold Technical Advisory Group meeting
Monitoring and Evaluation	
Training of program staff and partners in data collection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue providing back stopping for staff and program partners in data collection
Train UWA staff in ecological monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organize and hold training for UWA ecological monitoring staff in MFNP • Organize and hold training for UWA ecological monitoring staff in LMNP
Hold Performance review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organize end of year review workshop
Data capture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collect, analyze and enter data into monitoring system
Program support to USAID/Uganda AMPROC initiative	
Start AMPROC activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of work plan, budget, and development of activity monitoring plan (to run up to February 2014) to focus the activities to clearly deliverable targets • Implement as per reviewed work plan